PETER C. HARVEY
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street - 5th Floor
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101
Attorney for the State Board
of Medical Examiners

By: Tobey Palan

Deputy Attorney General Tel. (973) 648-2500

FILED

DECEMBER 6, 2005

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF:

KAREN TUCKER, D.P.M. License No.: MD 2449

TO PRACTICE PODIATRY IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

CONSENT ORDER
OF REINSTATEMENT
OF LICENSE

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners (Board) by way of the Board receiving information that Dr. Tucker (Respondent) consulted with a few patients in March of 2004 while she did not have a current and valid malpractice policy. On November 1, 2004, an Interim Consent Order was filed whereby Respondent agreed to immediately cease and desist from maintaining a professional medical practice or providing patient care in New Jersey until she provides documentation to the Board that she has a current and valid medical malpractice liability insurance policy which satisfies N.J.S.A. 45:9-17(a). On or about April 26, 2005, Respondent provided the Board with a copy of her certificate of insurance for a valid malpractice policy effective

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

from April 22, 2005 through April 22, 2006. On May 18, 2005, at a Preliminary Evaluation Committee, Respondent testified that she treated four patients in New Jersey during March 2004 through April 2004 without maintaining a valid malpractice insurance policy. Respondent's license was previously suspended by the Board for three (3) years retroactive to March 5, 1999, the date of Respondent's guilty plea to one count of health care fraud (District of Texas), and was reinstated on October 10, 2003.

The Board and Respondent seeking to resolve this matter without resorting to further proceedings; and the Board finding that the within Interim Order is sufficiently protective of the public interest; and Respondent waiving her right to a hearing in this matter; and for other good cause shown,

IT IS THEREFORE ON THIS 6TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2005, ORDERED:

- 1. Karen Tucker, D.P.M. is hereby **REPRIMANDED** for treating four patients during March 2004 through April 2004 without maintaining a valid malpractice insurance policy in New Jersey; and
- 2. Karen Tucker, D.P.M. is hereby assessed a monetary penalty in the amount of \$5,000.00. The penalty in the aggregate amount of \$5,000.00 shall be paid in ten equal monthly installments (\$500.00 per installment) beginning thirty (30) days from the filing date of this Consent Order. Payment of the penalties shall be submitted by certified check or money order made payable to the

State of New Jersey and shall be sent to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners, P.O. Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183.

- 3. Failure to remit any payment as required by this Consent Order will result in the filing of a Certificate of Debt.
- 4. Karen Tucker, D.P.M. shall fully attend and successfully complete a Board approved Ethics course within six months of the filing date of this order.
- 5. That the license of Karen Tucker, D.P.M. to practice podiatry in the State of New Jersey be and hereby is reinstated subject to the following terms and conditions:
- A) Karen Tucker, D.P.M. will be supervised and observed for six full time working months of practice or the equivalent thereof, by John Gentless, D.P.M. at Respondent's expense.
- B) Supervision and observation of Dr. Tucker will consist of a minimum of meeting once a week at Dr. Gentless' office in Voorhees, New Jersey where he will review Dr. Tucker's new cases and randomly review older cases. In addition, Dr. Gentless will at his discretion perform random "spot checks" at Dr. Tucker's office to observe her practicing podiatry and/or review her patient files.
- C) Dr. Gentless shall submit a monthly written report regarding Dr. Tucker's progress to Dr. Joseph Gluck, Medical Director, at the Office of the Board of Medical Examiners, 140 E. Front St., 2nd floor, Trenton, NJ 08625.
 - D) Dr. Gentless shall immediately notify the Board

of Medical Examiners if he becomes aware of any improprieties and/or deviations from the standard of care in Dr. Tucker's practice of podiatry.

E) Dr. Tucker shall continue to maintain a current and valid medical malpractice liability insurance policy which satisfies N.J.S.A. 45:9-17(a) throughout the time period that she maintains a license to practice podiatry in New Jersey.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

Bernard Robins, M.D., F.A.C.P.

Board President

I consent to the form and entry of the above Order.

Karen Treker, D.P.M.

I agree to supervise and observe Dr. Tucker and report to the Board regarding Dr. Tucker as indicated above.

John Gentless, D.P.M.